

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following replacement paragraph [0016].

[0016] Base grid 84 has a top plate 87 and a bottom plate 88. Base grid 84 has base grid shield walls 89 extending vertically from top plate 87 of base grid 84. In one embodiment, a plurality of columns 90 support a web of I-beams 92 on which is mounted base grid 84. The web defines openings between I-beams 92 facilitating fluid flow under base grid 84. In one embodiment, a plurality of layers of laterally adjoining protective blocks (not shown) are disposed on top plate 87 of base grid 84 and are sized and configured for protecting PCV 22 from corium 70. In another embodiment, base grid 84 includes a supported structure (not shown) made of a steel layer, which is covered on top plate 87 with a refractory material 85 and cooled by water 94. Water 94 may be provided by flooding the lower drywell 24 through a conduit 96 using either active (pumps) or passive (gravity) means. In another embodiment, bottom plate 88 and the side surface of cylindrical wall 89 are covered with insulation material 98 (or ceramic material) to prevent degradation of strength of core catcher 80 due to high temperatures from corium 70. Insulation material (or ceramic material) protects core catcher 80 to maintain its structural integrity such that corium 70 can be retained in core catcher 80 and cooled.